

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
STATESBORO DIVISION

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
BRUNSWICK DIV.

2007 JAN 16 A 11:20

CLERK *C. Adell*
SD. DIST. OF GA.

JOHNNIE LEONARD ODUM,

Plaintiff,

v.

BULLOCH COUNTY and BULLOCH
COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S
OFFICE,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO.: CV606-108

MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S ORDER
and
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Plaintiff, an inmate presently incarcerated by the Bryan County Sheriff's Department in Pembroke, Georgia, has filed a Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 alleging certain violations of his constitutional rights. Plaintiff was granted leave of the Court by Order dated December 11, 2006, to proceed in forma pauperis in this action.

A prisoner proceeding in a civil action against officers or employees of government entities must comply with the mandates of the Prison Litigation Reform Act ("PLRA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1915. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g) of the PLRA provides:

In no event shall a prisoner bring a civil action or appeal a judgment in a civil action or proceeding under this section if the prisoner has, on 3 or more prior occasions, while incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an action or appeal in a court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds that it is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, unless the prisoner is under imminent danger of serious physical injury.

28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). This provision of the PLRA “requires frequent filer prisoners to prepay the entire filing fee before federal courts may consider their lawsuits and appeals.” Rivera v. Allin, 144 F.3d 719, 723 (11th Cir. 1998).

A review of Plaintiff’s history of filings reveals that he has brought at least three civil actions or appeals which were dismissed and count as strikes under § 1915(g): (1) Odum v. Bulloch County Public Defender’s Office, CV606-45 (S.D. Ga. June 12, 2006) (dismissed for failure to state a claim); (2) Odum v. City of Pembroke, CV406-79 (S.D. Ga. June 27, 2006) (dismissed for failure to state a claim); and (3) Odum v. Bulloch County, CV606-54 (S.D. Ga. Sept. 11, 2006) (dismissed for failure to state a claim).

The Eleventh Circuit upheld the constitutionality of section 1915(g) in Rivera. In so doing, the Court concluded that section 1915(g) does not violate an inmate’s rights to access to the courts, to due process of law, or to equal protection, or the doctrine of separation of powers. Rivera, 144 F.3d at 721-27. Because Plaintiff has filed three previously dismissed cases or appeals which qualify as strikes under section 1915(g), Plaintiff may not proceed in forma pauperis in this action unless he can demonstrate that he meets the “imminent danger of serious physical injury” exception to § 1915(g).

Plaintiff cannot claim that he should be excused from prepaying the filing fee because of the “imminent danger of serious physical injury” exception to § 1915(g). In order to come within the imminent danger exception, the inmate must be in imminent danger at the time he files suit in district court, not at the time of the alleged incident that serves as the basis for the complaint. Medberry v. Butler, 185 F.3d 1189, 1193 (11th Cir. 1999). As noted by the Court, “a prisoner’s allegation that he faced imminent danger

sometime in the past is an insufficient basis to allow him to proceed *in forma pauperis* pursuant to the imminent danger exception to the statute." Id.

In his Complaint, Plaintiff asserts his attorney from the public defender's office represented him "illegally." (Comp., p. 5.) Because Plaintiff has not shown how he was in imminent danger of serious physical injury at the time he filed his Complaint, he is not entitled to proceed in forma pauperis and is required to pay the complete filing fee pursuant to § 1915(g). Accordingly, the Court **VACATES** its December 11, 2006, Order. Plaintiff's request to proceed in forma pauperis is **DENIED**, and this case should be **DISMISSED**, without prejudice. If Plaintiff wishes to proceed with this action, he should be required to resubmit his complaint along with the full \$350.00 filing fee.

SO ORDERED and REPORTED and RECOMMENDED, this 16th day of January, 2007.



JAMES E. GRAHAM

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE